From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]

Sent: 2/27/2018 7:07:01 PM

To: elizabeth@freebeacon.com

Subject: FW: EPA reorganization

Hi Liz – On background: I thought you might be interested in the following email sent to The Hill, on their inaccurate and fearmongering article that is getting picked up by many other outlets. The Hill tried to claim in their article that there is a major re-organization happening that will end science research and grants that affect children's health. This is a reorganization being proposed by career leadership to help make their office work better, it's not what The Hill is claiming or sensationalizing. Please let me know if you have questions or want to discuss. Thanks for your consideration – Liz

Major EPA reorganization will end science research program – Not true, research will continue

BV MIRANDA GREEN - 02/26/18 08:49 PM EST

A federal environmental program that distributes grants to test the effects of chemical exposure on adults and children is being shuttered amidst a major organization consolidation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Not true: The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership. Nothing is "being shuttered" there is no "major organization"

The National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) will no longer exist following plans to combine three EPA offices, the agency confirmed to The Hill on Monday.

Not true: No functions will be eliminated. Career and political staff – together- have initiated a process to bring multiple functions into one office – based on changes that have occurred over years.

The program provides millions of dollars in grants each year.

Funding of grants has nothing to do with any potential reorganization.

Perhaps best known for its handling of fellowships that study the effects of chemicals on children's health, the NCER will be dissolved and science staff serving there will be reassigned elsewhere within the department, the EPA said.

NOT TRUE: Nothing is "being dissolved" – staff will join with functions similar to what they are doing; no functions are being eliminated.

The merger will involve the EPA's Office of Administrative and Research Support, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management, and the grants and contracts managed by the NCER to create a new Office of Resource Management.

A merging of functions is very different than a "shuttering amidst a major reorganization"

Other EPA functions consolidated into the new office include the handling of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, records management and budget formulation functions.

FOIA responses are functions performed across the agency, in all offices. There are FOIA officers in each, program/office. That isn't changing.

An EPA spokesperson said the extensive organizational changes are meant to create more efficiency within the agency.

Where did you get the word "extensive" – seems subjective. You are neglecting to say that this is an efficiency designed by career leadership, that is being initiated and going through the approval process.

"EPA's Office of Research and Development is one of the world's leading environmental and human health research organizations. In order to maintain the quality and focus of our research, senior leaders from the research and development office are proactively taking steps to create management efficiencies within the organization," the spokesperson said. "These changes will help EPA's Office of Research and Development be more responsive to agency priorities and funding realities."

The White House's fiscal 2018 and 2019 budgets both proposed zeroing out major programs under the NCER, but the cuts were not taken up in the most recent congressional budget.

The budget has nothing to do with this.

An EPA spokesperson said that under the planned overhaul, employees currently working at the NCER will not be fired, but may have their positions altered.

"fired" seems like fearmongering here — also, this is not true: all functions are continuing and the reorganization effort being initiated does not affect any employment status. The email that YOU QUOTE FROM says "staff affected will retain the grade and career ladder of their position"!

"At the appropriate time, the science staff currently in NCER will be redeployed to the [Office of Research and Development] labs/centers/offices matching their expertise to organizational needs. This reorganization could result in a change of positions or functions. Staff in the affected organizations will retain the grade and career ladder of their position of record," the spokesperson said.

See above.

The NCER is largely known for the funding it provides through its premiere program, Science To Achieve Results (STAR). Under the STAR program, grants are given to the Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers, which were established in 1988 to discover methods to reduce children's health risks from environmental factors.

As explained: The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"Those programs have been so successful in advancing our scientific understanding and our ability to address the ways that environmental chemicals can impact children's health," said Tracey Woodruff, a former senior scientist and policy adviser at the EPA under the Clinton and Bush administrations. "The children centers

were really the first and only centers to uncover the relationship with prenatal exposure to flame retardants and IQ deficiencies in children."

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

A report released by the National Academy of Sciences last year that was compiled at the EPA's request championed the STAR program for its "numerous successes."

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"STAR has had numerous successes, such as in research on human health implications of air pollution, on environmental effects on children's health and well-being, on interactions between climate change and air quality, and on the human health implications of nanoparticles. Those are just a few examples; many more could be cited," the report read.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

A former EPA official who worked within the NCER said the loss of the STAR program would be harmful to both the EPA and national science.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"The program was designed to not provide direct benefits to the agency but to the public. Without the STAR grants program there is a loss of an environmental agency that will look at both environmental and human health issues and to exam environmental issues of the future," the source cautioned.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

Woodruff called the decision to merge the NCER with the other offices, which currently do not focus on handling grants, extremely concerning.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"They make it sound like this is a way to create efficiency, but it masks what's happening to this actually programmatic, scientific function of NCER and the STAR program. That makes you think, is this really just an efficiency argument masking their real intention to get rid of the research grant program, which they have said they want to do in the past?" she said. "Answering FOIAs and administering scientific grants are not the same thing."

Exactly; maybe The Hill should explain to readers that each EPA office typically has a FOIA officer and the reorganization that is initiated is to help consolidate administration activities of this particular department – not to change FOIAS, and that – AGAIN – the funding of grants has nothing to do with this.

The EPA has <u>recently acknowledged</u> a slow-down in the rate of FOIA requests answered, citing a backlog in previous requests made under the Obama administration and an uptick in FOIA requests sent since <u>President Trump</u> took office.

The EPA official did not acknowledge how the agency rearrangement may address those issues.

B/c it doesn't – these are issues that The Hill is conflating.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]

Sent: 3/21/2018 4:09:04 PM

To: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Subject: RE: EPA International Travel

Morocco in December

https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/12/following-reports-of-pruitt-s-40-000-trip-to-morocco-carper-asks-inspector-general-to-expand-investigation-into-epa-administrator-s-travel

From: Elizabeth Harrington [mailto:elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 12:07 PM To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

Sorry, one more question. Does Pruitt have any other international travel besides the Italy trip?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:05 PM, Elizabeth Harrington <<u>elizabeth@freebeacon.com</u>> wrote: ok cool, thanks. and this is all internal EPA data?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:59 AM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

My apologizes: Vietnam is \$68,267 not \$68,7267 to travel to Vietnam.

Vietnam is \$68,267

From: Elizabeth Harrington [mailto:elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:51 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan < <u>wilcox.jahan@epa.gov</u>> **Subject:** Re: EPA International Travel

Thanks. Just the Vietnam now: \$68,7267 to travel to Vietnam

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:48 AM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

Two corrections:

Peru was \$45,139 (copied and pasted the wrong bullet)
China was \$155,763 (copied and pasted the wrong bullet from above)

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And the last figure for Jackson must be a mistake...\$155 million?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:44 AM, Elizabeth Harrington < elizabeth@freebeacon.com > wrote:

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On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:32 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox, jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Elizabeth -

<u>The Associated Press</u> and a few other <u>liberal organizations</u> have been obsessed with creating a controversy surrounding the cost to protect EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his G-7 meetings in Italy. During the Obama Administration when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy, these news outlets never bothered to submit a public information request (FOIA) or report on the costs of her travel.

In fact, during her tenure at the EPA, McCarthy incurred numerous security related expenses for her trips to: Paris, Dubai, Tokyo, Costa Rica, Rio De Janeiro, Austria, Peru, Ghana and Rome.

Below is a statement that you are welcome to use along with the costs for the international trips that McCarthy and Jackson too.

"The double-standard couldn't be more clear: under Barack Obama's EPA the media chose not to report on expenditures to protect the EPA Administrator for international travel or the costs of their trips, but under the Trump Administration the costs to protect our government officials is somehow scandalous." EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

In 2017, Scott Pruitt and his security detail spent \$84,000 to travel to the G7 Summit in Italy. (Washington Examiner, 03/20/18)

In 2016, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$68,382 to travel to Ghana. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

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Jahan Wilcox EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor Work Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795 Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795 Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]

Sent: 3/21/2018 4:10:24 PM

To: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Subject: RE: EPA International Travel **Attachments**: McCathy.JPG; Jackson.JPG

See screenshots for McCarthy and Jackson

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Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

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Elizabeth Harrington

Senior Writer

Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795

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6/10/2016	0/17/2010	EPA Administrator's Regional Asia Mission - TARMAN - TAIPE); HANO: -VIETNAM (5-days)	s	5,320.88 \$	4.175.87	Economy	\$	553.48	No	GouTrip, AF includes TMC Fee	\$	58,267.89	\$	15,434.41
1/21/2014	1/25/2014	World Economic Forum 2014 - SWITZERLAND - DAVOS (5-days)	\$	5,870.42 \$	2,501.57	Economy	5	2:440.71	Yes, all lodging	DAVOS made all rooms during time over per diem	\$	24,671.71	\$	10,878.83
12/7/2018	12/14/2018	EPA Administrator's China Mission: ICEC - CHINA – BEIJING, SHANGHAI(8-days)	Ş.	4,438.01 . S	2,343.04	Economy	5	1,365.51	Yes, I of 5 nights	GovTrip, 4F includes TMC Fee, Last night in Hong Ko	\$	55,384.75	\$	12,086.46
		McCarthy Totals	\$ 6	3,889.29							s	750,528.98	\$ 2	66,457.73

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]

Sent: 3/30/2018 10:14:54 PM

To: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

"As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt's housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



Washington, D.C. 20460

MAR 3 0 2018

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Review of Lease Agreement Under the Federal Ethics Regulations Regarding Gifts

FROM:

Kevin S. Minoli 1/55.

Designated Agency Ethics Official & Principal Deputy General Counsel

TO:

Matthew Z. Leopold

General Counsel

As requested, the Ethics Office reviewed the lease agreement entered into by E. Scott Pruitt (TENANT) and Vicki Hart (LANDLORD) under the federal ethics regulations regarding gifts. The regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics are clear that if a federal employee pays market value for something, it is by definition not a gift under those regulations. 5 C.F.R. 2635.203(b)(10)(excluding from the definition of gift "[a]nything for which market value is paid by the employee"). Market value for rental apartments is commonly thought of in terms of rental cost per month. Under the terms of the lease, if the space was utilized for one 30-day month, then the rental cost would be \$1500, which is a reasonable market value. The lease authorized use by the Administrator and his immediate family, specifically including his spouse and children, and consistent with that provision of the lease his immediate family did stay there when they were in Washington, DC. The lease did not require payment when the property was not utilized. Neither of these two provisions render the rental cost under the lease as something other than market value. Therefore, entering into the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations regarding gifts, and use of the property in accordance with the lease agreement did not constitute a gift as defined in those regulations.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]

Sent: 3/21/2018 5:54:36 PM

To: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

Good stuff, thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2018, at 1:48 PM, Elizabeth Harrington < <u>elizabeth@freebeacon.com</u>> wrote:

http://freebeacon.com/issues/obama-epa-administrators-spent-eight-times-pruitt-international-travel/

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:14 PM, Elizabeth Harrington <<u>elizabeth@freebeacon.com</u>> wrote: awesome, thank you!

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:10 PM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

See screenshots for McCarthy and Jackson

From: Elizabeth Harrington [mailto:elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 12:07 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

Sorry, one more question. Does Pruitt have any other international travel besides the Italy trip?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:05 PM, Elizabeth Harrington < elizabeth@freebeacon.com > wrote:

ok cool, thanks. and this is all internal EPA data?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:59 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox, jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

My apologizes: Vietnam is \$68,267 not \$68,7267 to travel to Vietnam.

Vietnam is \$68,267

From: Elizabeth Harrington [mailto:elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:51 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov >

Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

Thanks. Just the Vietnam now: \$68,7267 to travel to Vietnam

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:48 AM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

Two corrections:

Peru was \$45,139 (copied and pasted the wrong bullet)
China was \$155,763 (copied and pasted the wrong bullet from above)

From: Elizabeth Harrington [mailto:elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:48 AM To: Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

And the last figure for Jackson must be a mistake...\$155 million?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:44 AM, Elizabeth Harrington < <u>elizabeth@freebeacon.com</u>> wrote:

Is the Vietnam supposed to be \$687,267?. Also, Ghana and Peru have the same amount, of \$68,382 is that correct?

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:32 AM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

Elizabeth -

<u>The Associated Press</u> and a few other <u>liberal organizations</u> have been obsessed with creating a controversy surrounding the cost to protect EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his G-7 meetings in Italy. During the Obama Administration when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy, these news outlets never bothered to submit a public information request (FOIA) or report on the costs of her travel.

In fact, during her tenure at the EPA, McCarthy incurred numerous security related expenses for her trips to: Paris, Dubai, Tokyo, Costa Rica, Rio De Janeiro, Austria, Peru, Ghana and Rome.

Below is a statement that you are welcome to use along with the costs for the international trips that McCarthy and Jackson too.

"The double-standard couldn't be more clear: under Barack Obama's EPA the media chose not to report on expenditures to protect the EPA Administrator for international travel or the costs of their trips, but under the Trump Administration the costs to protect our government officials is somehow scandalous." EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

In 2017, Scott Pruitt and his security detail spent \$84,000 to travel to the G7 Summit in Italy. (Washington Examiner, 03/20/18)

In 2016, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$68,382 to travel to Ghana. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2016, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$45,139 to travel to Peru. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2016, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$74,737 to travel to Tokyo. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2015, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$41,320 to travel to Paris. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2015, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$90,367 to travel to Dubai. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2015, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$67,702 to travel to Tokyo. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2015, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$56,192 to travel to Italy. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2014, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$62,246 to travel to Vancouver. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2014, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$68,7267 to travel to Vietnam.

(EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2013, Gina McCarthy and her security detail spent \$55,384 to travel to China. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2012, Lisa Jackson and her security detail spent \$64,963 to travel to Israel. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2011, Lisa Jackson and her security detail spent \$59,950 to travel to Rio De Janeiro. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2011, Lisa Jackson and her security detail spent \$51,435 to travel to Montreal. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

In 2011, Lisa Jackson and her security detail spent \$155,763 to travel to China. (EPA Office of the Administrator, Accessed 03/20/18)

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Elizabeth Harrington

Senior Writer

Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795

	penior writer
	Washington Free Beacon
	<u>202-770-3795</u>
-	-
I	Elizabeth Harrington
	Senior Writer
1	Washington Free Beacon
2	202-770-3795
Е	lizabeth Harrington
C	enior Writer
	mor writer
	Vashington Free Beacon
	<u>02-770-3795</u>
Eli	zabeth Harrington
Sei	nior Writer
W:	ashington Free Beacon 2-770-3795
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Elizabeth Harrington

Senior Writer

Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795

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Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795 From: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]

Sent: 3/21/2018 3:40:01 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Aaron Harison [harison@freebeacon.com]

Subject: Re: EPA International Travel

Cool, thanks!

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:32 AM, Wilcox, Jahan < wilcox.jahan@epa.gov > wrote:

Elizabeth –

<u>The Associated Press</u> and a few other <u>liberal organizations</u> have been obsessed with creating a controversy surrounding the cost to protect EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his G-7 meetings in Italy. During the Obama Administration when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy, these news outlets never bothered to submit a public information request (FOIA) or report on the costs of her travel.

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Elizabeth Harrington Senior Writer

Washington Free Beacon 202-770-3795